

Regulator 23 FS



Natural Athlete

Every day is game day.

There's no one on the bay. No wonder—it's blowing more than 20 mph and spitting cold rain. But we dedicated boat testers must march on, even in such hideous conditions.

Luckily, today's test boat—Regulator's 23 FS—has a kickass 24-degree deep-V hull that chews through rough water as well as any monohull in its class.

Just to prove the point, I opened the throttle and hit 44.1 mph while running through a quartering sea, and although I expected smooth landings, I didn't expect a complete absence of spray. So I tried running downsea, then beam-to. Still dry. Try as you will, it's tough to get the 48-degree entry and reversed chines to throw water anywhere but down and away. The downside? When I shifted into neutral and drifted in a beam sea, we rocked and rolled more than a boat with a wider beam and flatter bottom would. Hey—you play, you pay.

The 23 FS stands apart from its predecessors by the one-piece, full-height splashwell door. I tried backing into the chop to see how well it held out the water, and my feet never got damp. It's flanked by two 48-quart bait boxes, and the hatches are finished inside and out.

It stands out against its competitors in several ways. Most notable is the 160-gallon fuel capacity. With that much juice onboard and the single 250-hp Yamaha four-stroke powerplant, you'll have more than 400 miles of range. Another standout feature is the ease with which you can navigate around the center console, thanks to Regulator's T-top attachment design.

The "FS" stands for forward seating, and instead of an open bow, this boat has a lounge with a 125-quart stowage areas under each seat. There's also a 695-quart fishbox/stowage compartment in the deck forward of the console. It's long enough to stow rods, and our test boat could handle six. Open the hatch in the aft deck—there's a 25-gallon livewell. This belowdecks livewell helps the boat maintain a low center of gravity—25 gallons equals more than 200

BOATING

Certified Test Results

Regulator 23

rpm	SPEED			EFFICIENCY				OPERATION	
	knots	mph	gph	naut. mpg	stat. mpg	n. mi. range	s. mi. range	run angle	sound level
1000	4.4	5.1	0.9	4.9	5.7	709	816	0	62
1500	6.1	7.0	1.8	3.4	3.9	487	560	1	66
2000	6.9	7.9	3.0	2.3	2.6	330	379	2	70
2500	7.6	8.8	4.4	1.7	2.0	250	288	3	74
3000	10.4	12.0	5.9	1.8	2.0	255	293	0	78
3500	20.8	23.9	6.5	3.2	3.7	460	529	0	82
4000	26.6	30.6	8.0	3.3	3.8	479	551	0	86
4500	29.5	34.0	11.7	2.5	2.9	364	418	0	90
5000	33.1	38.1	14.7	2.3	2.6	324	373	0	92
5500	36.7	42.2	19.8	1.9	2.1	267	307	0	96
5800	38.3	44.1	23.2	1.7	1.9	238	274	0	99

Advertised fuel capacity 160 gallons. Range based on 90 percent of that figure. Performance measured with two persons aboard, one-half fuel. Sound levels taken at helm, in dB-A.

LOA	23'4"
Beam	8'4"
Draft (max.)	2'5"
Displacement (lbs., approx.; w/o power)	3,800
Transom deadrise	24°
Bridge clearance	6'0"
Minimum cockpit depth	2'2"
Fuel capacity (gal.)	160
Price (w/standard power)	\$59,850
Price (w/test power)	\$60,600

OPTIONAL POWER Single outboard to 300 hp or twin outboards to 400 hp total.

TEST BOAT POWER Single 250-hp Yamaha F250 V-6 four-stroke outboard with 204.6 cid, 3.70" bore x 3.17" stroke, swinging a 15¹/₄" x 19" three-bladed ss prop through a 2.0:1 reduction.

STANDARD EQUIPMENT (major items) Battery switch; 25-gal. livewell; 4 gunwale-mounted rodholders; 2 transom baitboxes; leaning post; hydraulic steering; compass; integrated fishbox; ss grabrail; coaming pads.

STANDARD POWER Single 225-hp Yamaha F225 four-stroke outboard.

High Points Ride is at the top of its class. Fit and finish is great; the boat is detailed like a work of art. Dual fills mean you can fuel up from either side. Splashwell door and transom design keep you close enough to the outboard that you can work a fish around the prop.

Low Points Washdown water pressure on our test boat was wimpy. Prepare for the deep-V roll. There's no head in the console, and just about every 23' built these days has one. Belowdecks livewell plumbing had single hose clamp, which should be doubled.

Toughest Competitor Contender's 23 Open Fish offers similar performance and costs less at \$52,000. Fit and finish is not on the Regulator's level, however, and with an inch less LOA and an inch less beam, the Contender has less deck space.

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pounds of weight, and keeping that weight low improves the ride and reduces rolling. But anglers with bad backs won't like bending down every time they need a new bait. Of course, your back may be feeling a little less pain than usual, thanks to that smooth-riding hull. —LENNY RUDOW